THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

MARVEL ®

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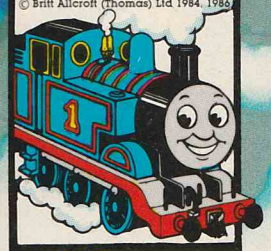

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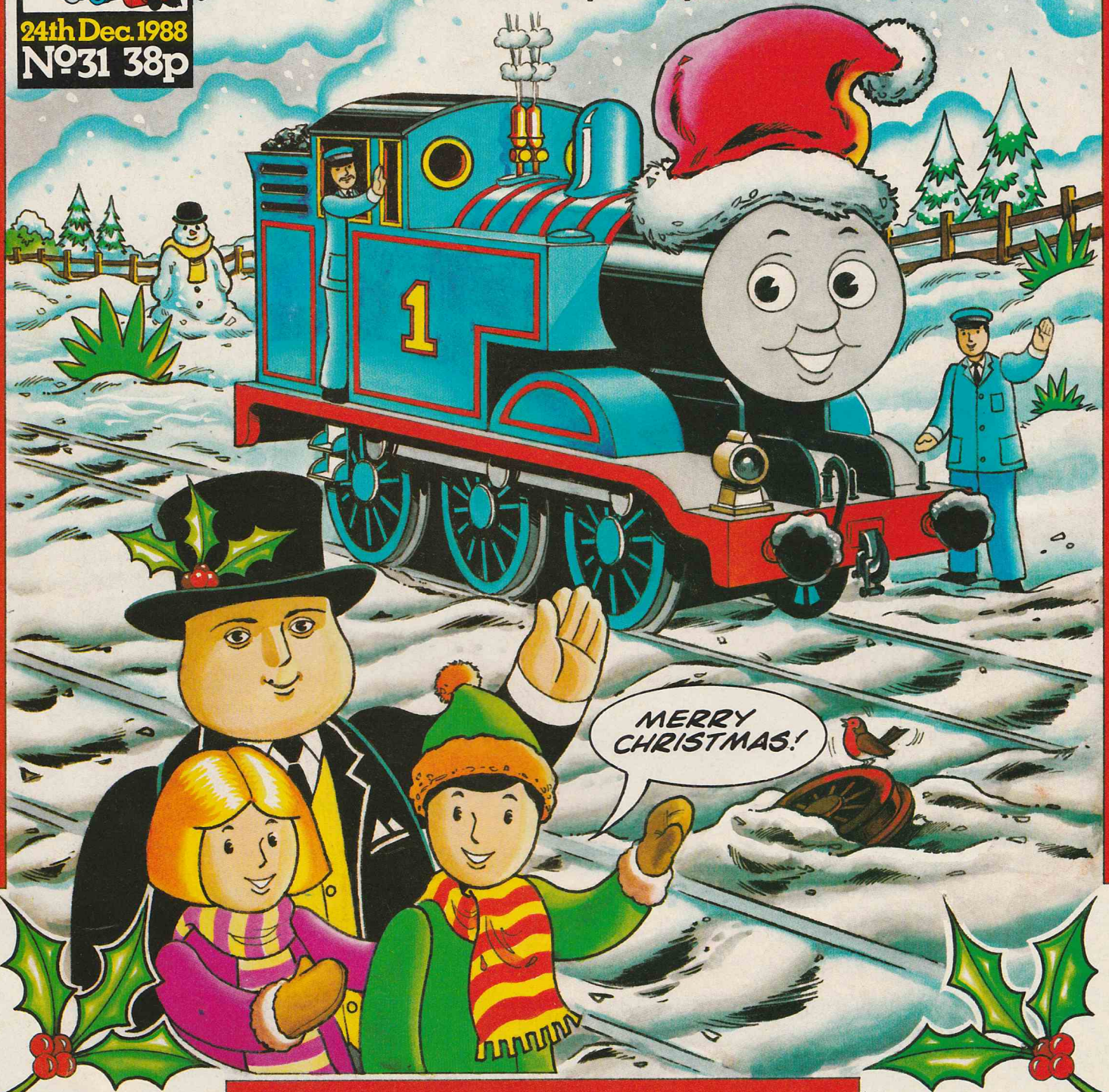
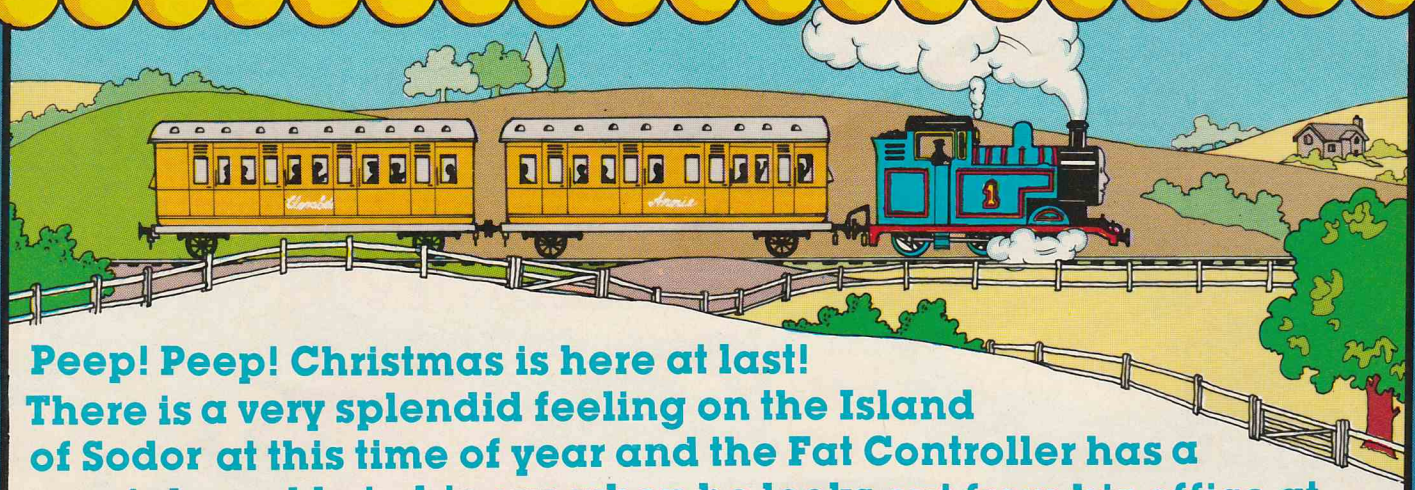


THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Christmas is here at last! There is a very splendid feeling on the Island of Sodor at this time of year and the Fat Controller has a special sparkle in his eye when he looks out from his office at all the engines gleaming in the yard. Come with us and share the gentle happiness of Thomas's world at Christmas. Peep!

MORE DRAWINGS OF YOU!

The Fat Controller was so impressed with the Club members' pictures of themselves which appeared in issue 27 of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** that he would be very happy if you would like to send in some more! And he will choose the best ones to be printed here in your magazine. Send your drawing of yourself, together with your name, age, address, membership number and a list of your hobbies to: *A Picture of Me, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

A YEAR'S SUPPLY!

Do you find your favourite magazine is often sold out at the newsagents? It costs £9.75 to have **every** issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** sent straight to your home for a year! You will be sent a splendid, special Thomas pack and become a member of the Thomas Club automatically **too**! Details are on page 7.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

Want to join the Thomas Club without taking out a year's subscription? You will be sent a Club membership card if you collect just **3 tokens** like the one below. Send one **yellow**, one **red** and one **green** one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope (10 × 15cm) to: *Thomas Club Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

CHRISTMAS PICTURES!

Thank you for all the Christmas drawings you sent. The Fat Controller has pinned them **all** up in his office – all, that is, **except** the ones you will find on **page 12**! Will **yours** be there?

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

THOMAS TOKEN

In our next issue: Edward is a Really Friendly Engine and Thomas . . . gets stuck in a pile of snow!

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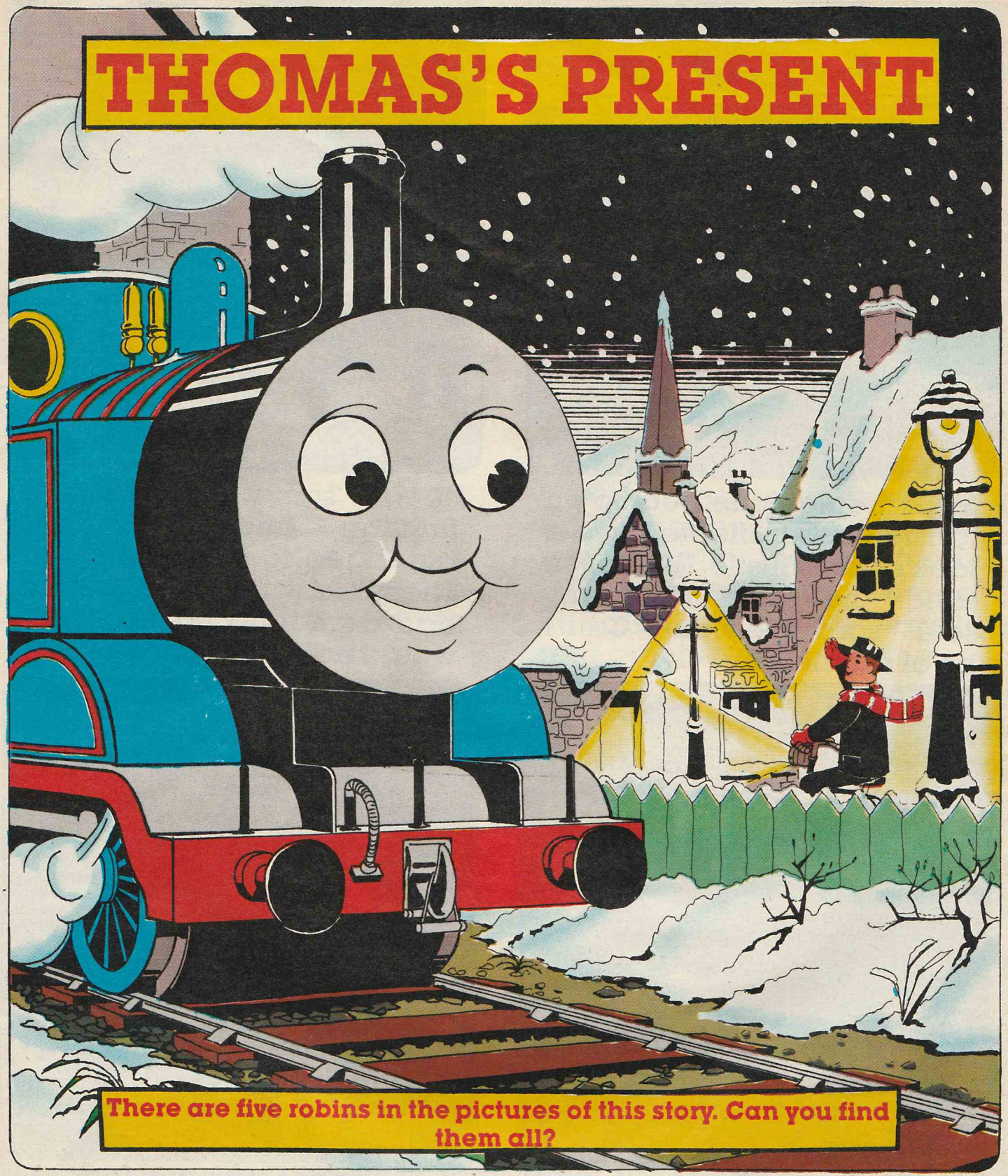
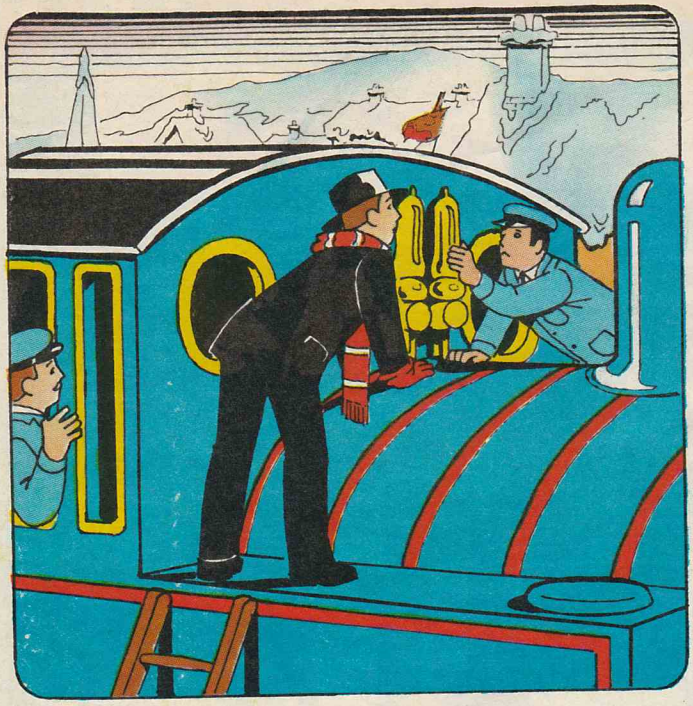
A listen and look story!

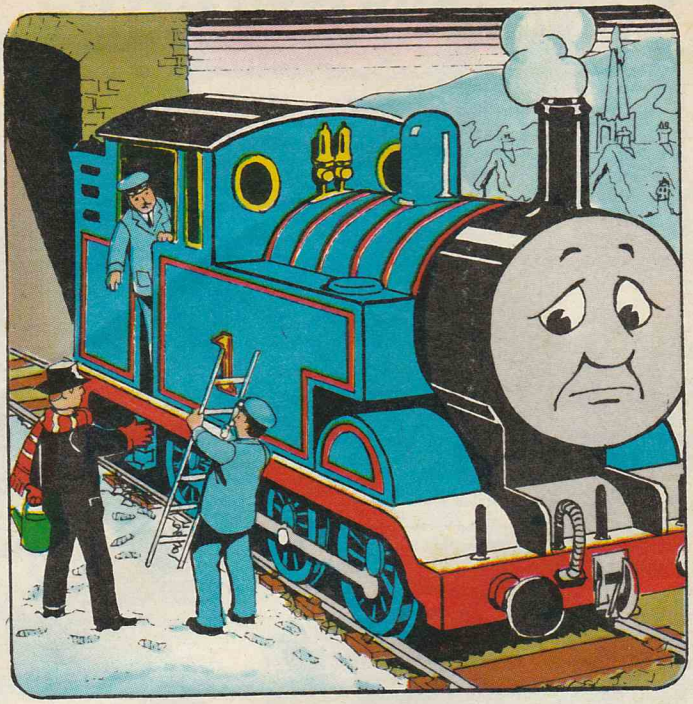


1. It was winter time on the Island of Sodor. It was very cold. Early on Christmas Eve Thomas steamed out from his shed to begin the day's work.

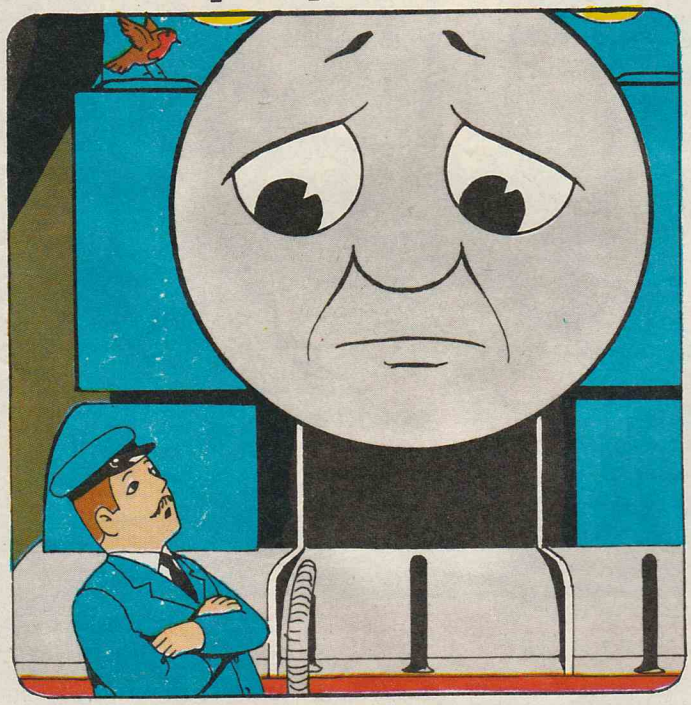
2. He saw the vicar cycling by. Thomas always likes to sound his whistle when he sees one of his friends, but when his driver tried to blow his whistle, nothing happened!



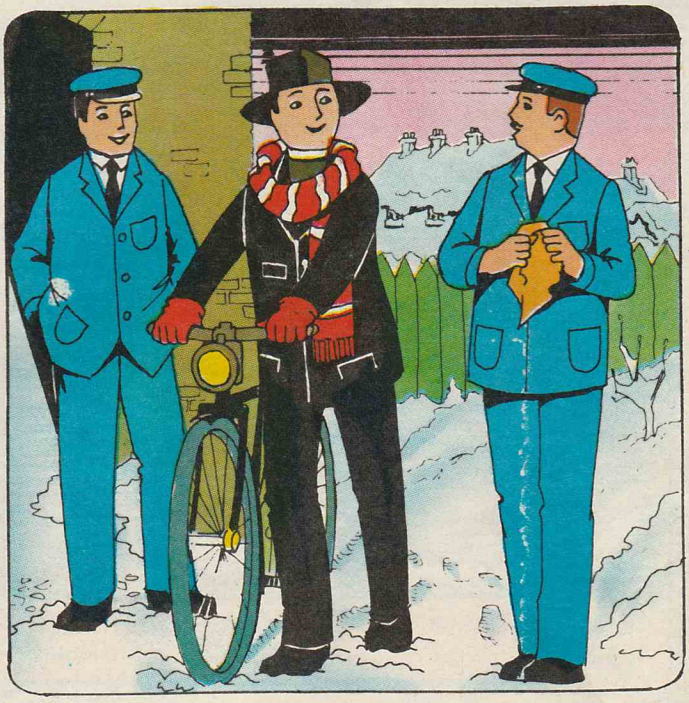
3. His fireman climbed up on to Thomas's boiler to have a look at the whistle. "It's frozen solid!" he said. "Upon my soul!" said the vicar. "Can I be of any help?"



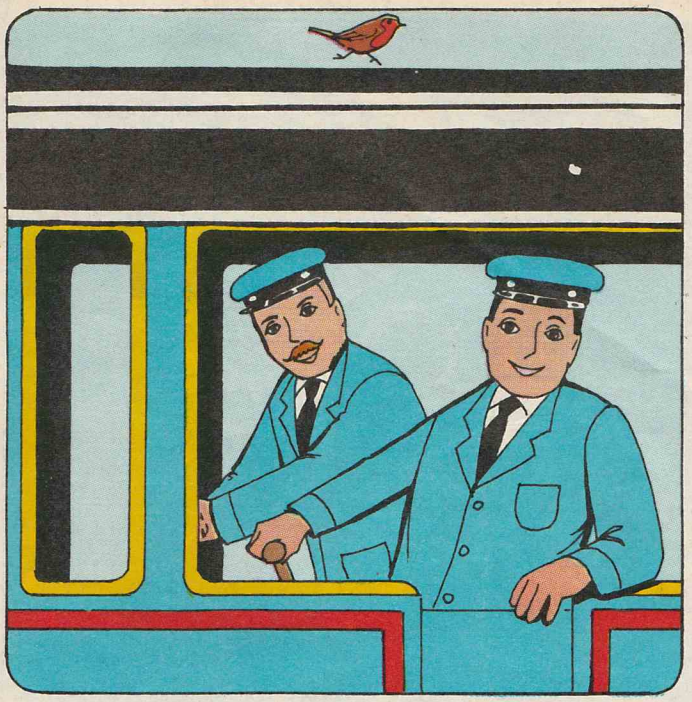
4. With some hot water the fireman and the vicar managed to melt the ice in Thomas's whistle but the ice had damaged it and it still would not make a sound.



5. "I'm sorry, Thomas," said his driver, "but it looks as if you will have to get used to not having a whistle any more." Thomas did not like that at all.



6. "I cannot stay any longer," said the vicar. "It is a busy day for me today. Will I see you at the Carol Service tonight?" he asked Thomas's driver and fireman.



7. "Yes, we are both coming," said Thomas's driver. "Thomas's last train arrives back here before the Service starts, so we should be there on time," said his fireman.

8. Later James heard what had happened to Thomas and thought it was very funny. "You're quiet today, Thomas," he said. He blew his whistle and went away laughing.

9. Henry said, "You have alwasy been a noisy little engine, Thomas. I think it shall be quite a relief not to have to listen to your whistle any more."

10. Gordon said, "Thomas, you are only a little tank engine. You do not need a whistle. Grand trains like me need to whistle so we can warn people we are coming."

11. "I think Gordon is right, you do not need a whistle," said the Fat Controller. "I do, sir! Please may I have a new whistle?" said Thomas. "We shall see," said the Fat Controller, "but I have more important things to think about at the moment. I will come and talk to you again after the Carol Service."

12. Thomas was very sad. "Cheer up, Thomas," said Edward. "I am sure the Fat Controller will get you a new whistle. He knows they are important. As for those silly big engines, do not pay any attention to them." "I know they do not mean any harm," said Thomas, "but I do miss my whistle."

The story continues on page 17!

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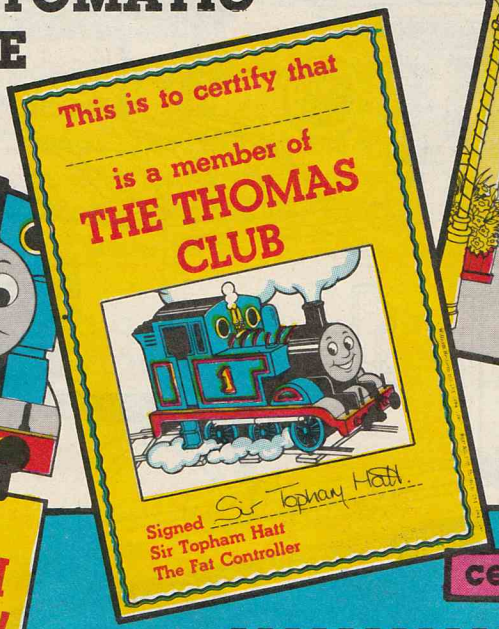
postcard



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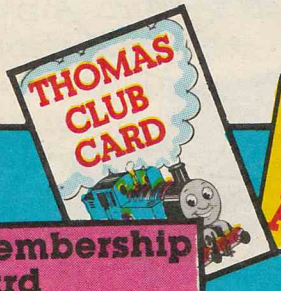

membership card

door hanger

It costs just **£9.75** to be sent a total of **26 issues** of **Thomas the Tank engine & Friends** – and this includes postage and packing. You will also receive our very special subscriber's **pack** (above). Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to: *Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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Name .....

Age ..... **Birthday** .....

Address .....

.....

My favourite part of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends magazine is .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

.....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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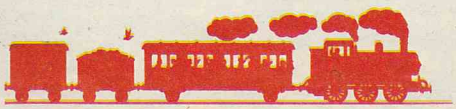

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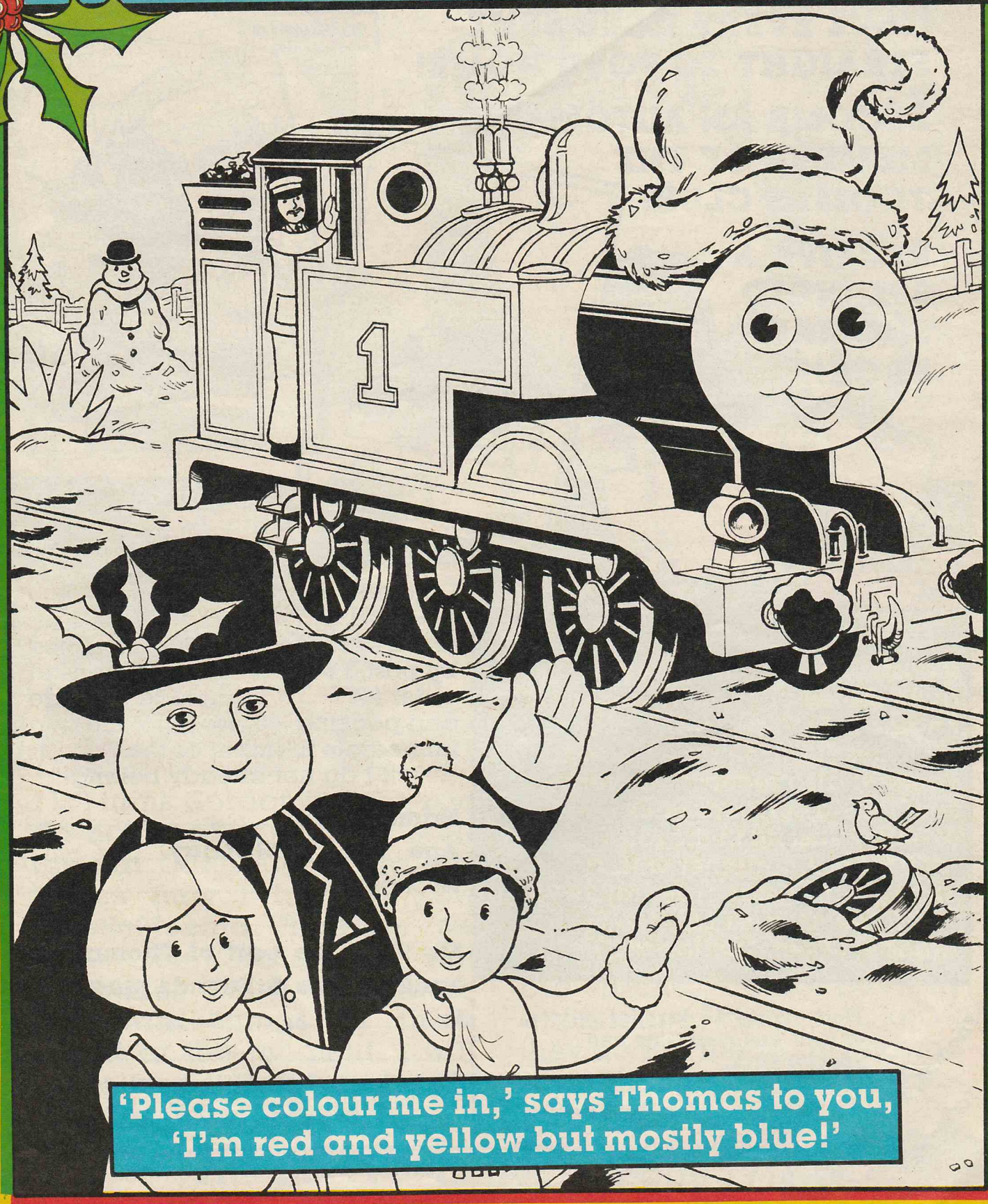
See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

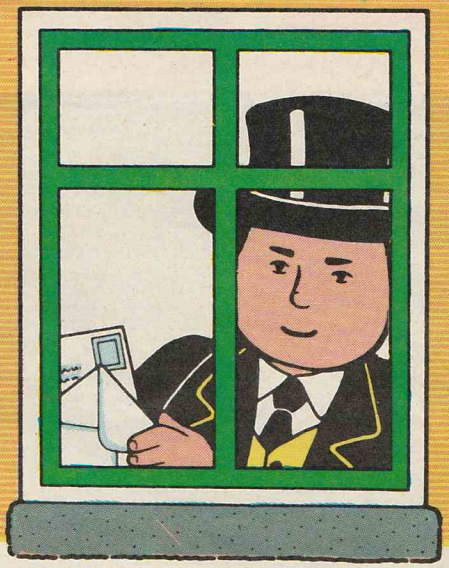
COLOURING TIME!



'Please colour me in,' says Thomas to you,
'I'm red and yellow but mostly blue!'

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
We went on holiday to Wales and we visited a narrow gauge railway. I had a ride on a big, black engine called **The Countess.** Do you know **The Countess?**
Love from **Christopher,**
aged 2½

I have read of ***The Countess.*** *I have never seen her, although I should very much like to. There are many splendid engines in Wales.*

Christopher wins a set of Thomas vinyl stickers, from Scorpio Products International Ltd.

HOLIDAY TIME!

Dear Fat Controller,
Have you been on holiday lately? Because I think you need a holiday.
From **Ben,** aged 6.

Indeed! I dare say Lady Topham Hatt would agree with you. I have not had a holiday for some time, but I do hope to have a short golfing break in the Spring.

JAMES'S JAPE!

What's white and goes up?
A stupid snowflake.
Harry, aged 5.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our best birthday wishes go to:

Joseph Harold, David Porter, Gemma Devine, Andrew Fagan, T. O'Rourke, Richard Horan, Richard Funnell, Michael Dillon, James William Finch, Rebecca and Sharon Evans, Richard Mylotte, Sean and Leanne Best, Hayley Strawbridge, Gregory Braniff (16185), James Patterson (22318), Dominic Hill, Lee Wishart, Christopher Blacker (4509), Robert Goatcher, Ian Wharam, Liam Kavanagh, Andrew Drummond, Christopher Alves, Jason Summers, Anna Perrett (17379), John Bull, Michael Bowdler, Thomas Price (sorry I missed you last year!), Adam Cooper, Robert Dixon, John Graham, Thomas Agar, Edward Hawes (22885), Richard Hazard, Stuart Hall (8242), Paul Broughton (15111), Richard Ingle (8436), Helen McAleavey, Daniel Bovey, Neal John Allen, Jonathan Mark Brookes, Stewart Simpson, David Seymour Ayers, Philip Ronayne (22897), Stephen Hedley (8336), Andrew Gneve's sister, Neil French (4431), Alexander Macdonald, Adam Bell (9306), Pasquale Biasiucci, Angela Carney, Natalie Mason, Thomas Greenslade, Tristan Drew (12365), Paul Shepherd, and Christopher Stone (6195).

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **8 weeks in advance.** I cannot **promise** to print every birthday I receive, but I will do my best!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: **The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2**

It's Christma

Which engine is puffing past the church?

Is he pulling any coaches or trucks?

How many children are on the thick ice?

What colour is the little house?

Point to the robi

How many other

Can you see a s

Can you see som

as Day!

robin!

ther birds are flying?

a snowman?

someone waving to you?

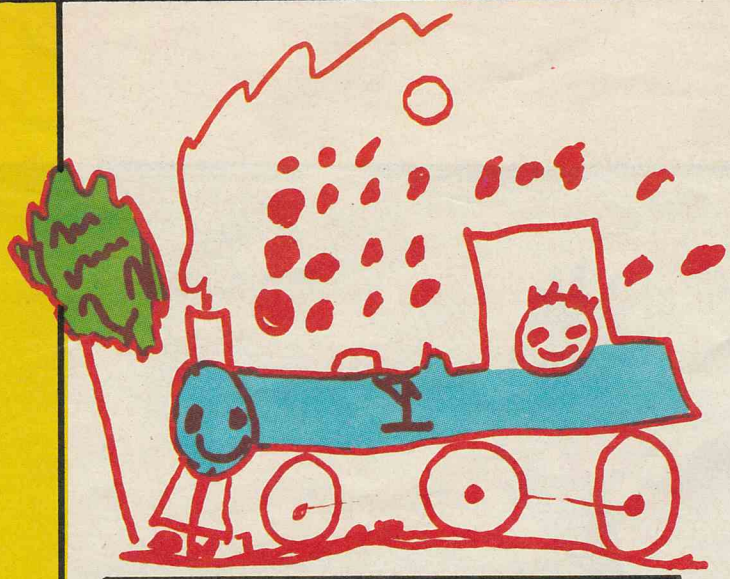
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Stuck in the snow!

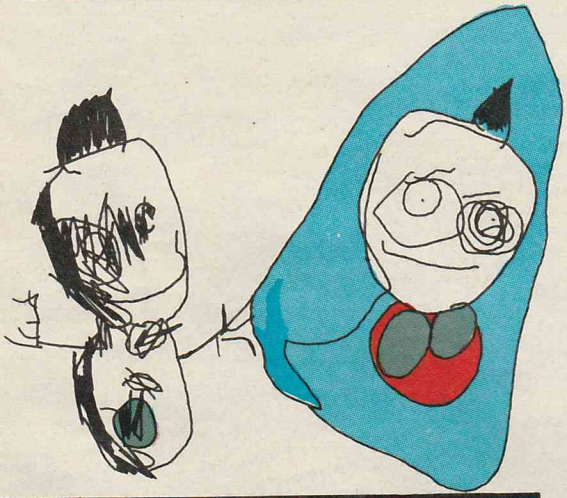
YOUR CHRISTMAS PICTURES!

Here are just a few of the splendid Christmas pictures sent in by our Club members. Which one do you like best?

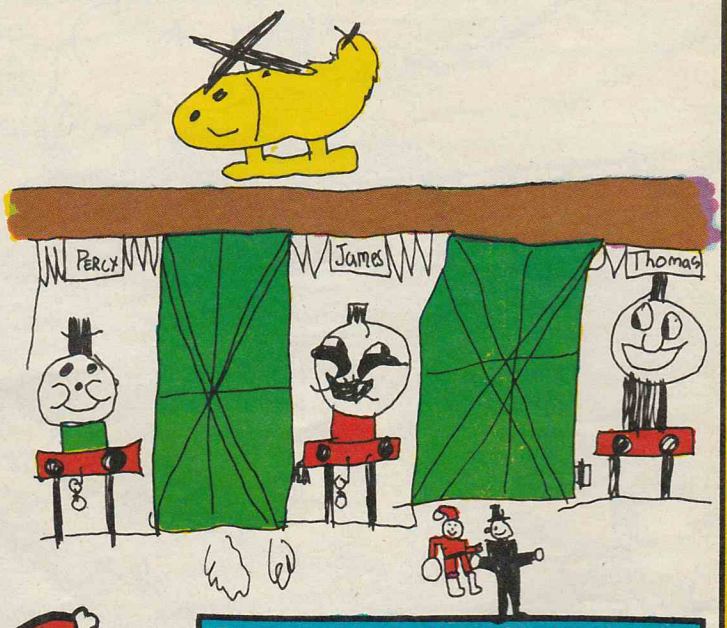


This splendid drawing of Thomas in the snow comes from **Adam Cooper,** aged 4, from Edgware.

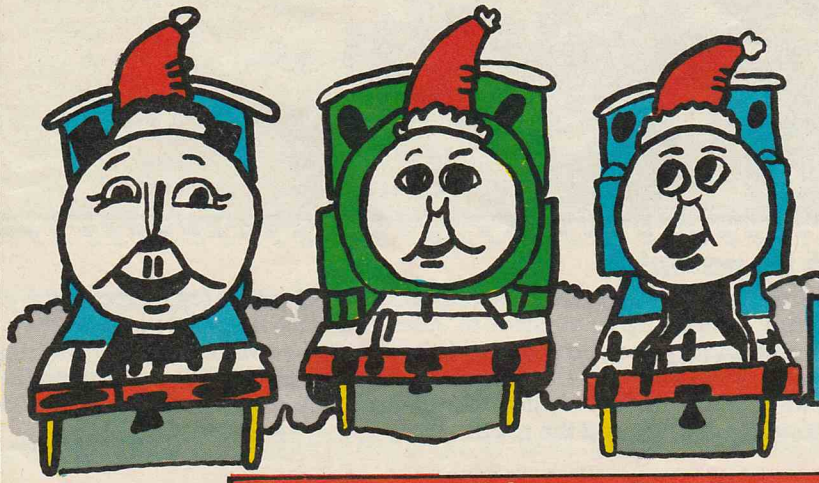
Our next artist is **Stuart Everett,** aged 7. Stuart's picture was decorated with cotton wool, too!



Here's Thomas and a snowman, from **Nicola Brown,** aged 2! Nicola comes from Leeds and her membership number is 1515.



Do you see Father Christmas and the Fat Controller? This smart picture comes from **Thomas Pritchard,** aged 6, from Whitwell, Nottingham. His membership number is 16483.

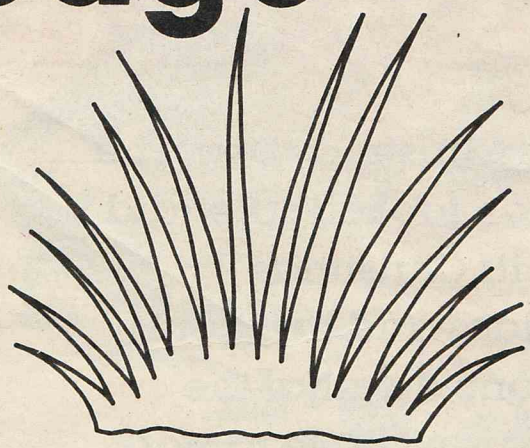


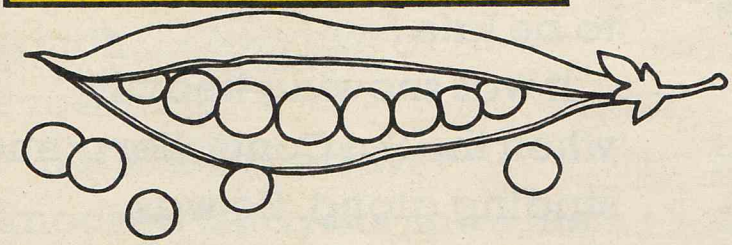
These jolly faces were sent in by **Philip Boyce** from County Antrim, membership number 10894.

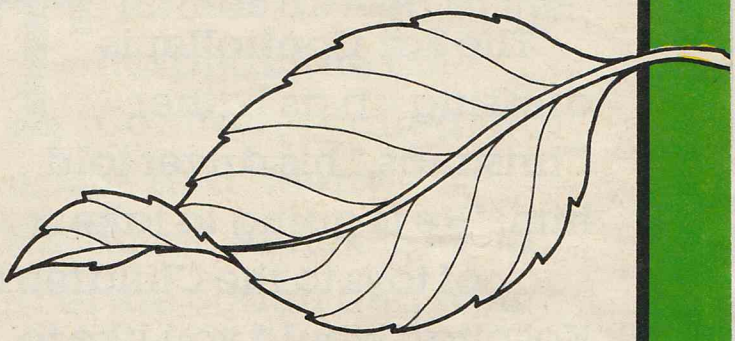
Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one!

Henry's GREEN page

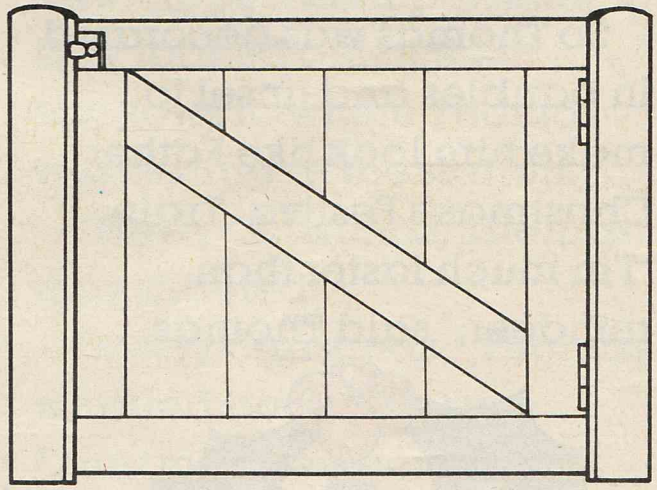
Look at these pictures. Can you pick out their names from the box below? Label each picture and then colour each one – green!

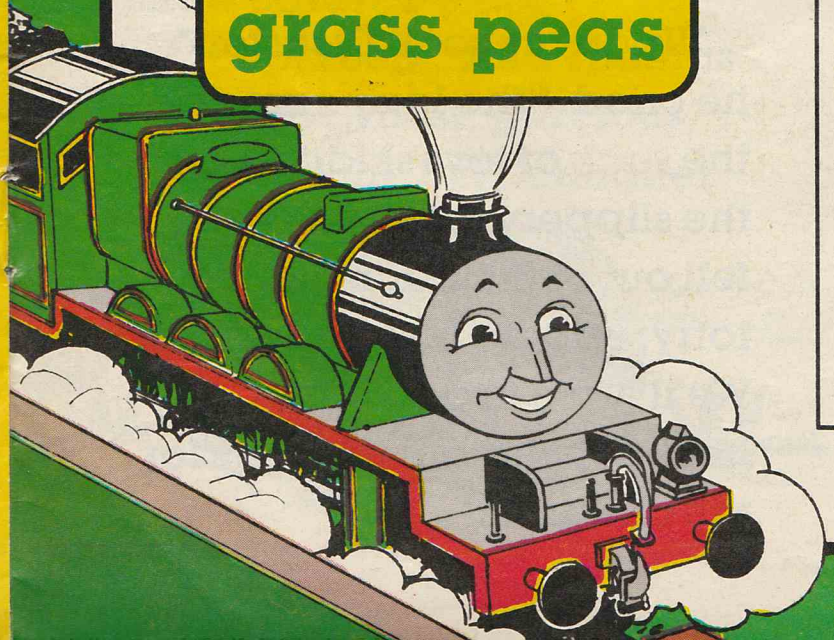






gate leaf
grass peas





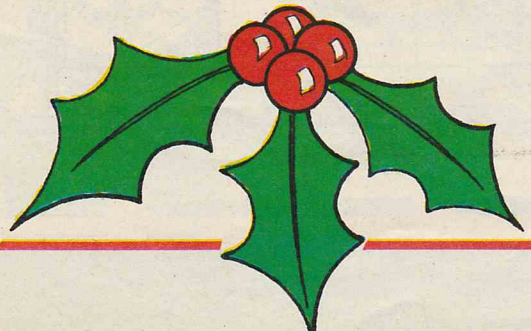
A Special Christmas Santa

It was Christmas Day. The Station looked splendid with its Christmas decorations and trees. This was the one day that the engines didn't have to work. But Thomas had volunteered for a very special job.

"The Fat Controller is dressing up as Father Christmas," his driver told him. "He is going to take a sack of toys to the Children's Hospital. Would you like to help, Thomas?"

"Yes, please," said Thomas.

So Thomas was decorated in baubles and tinsel to make him look like Father Christmas's Festival Train. "I'm much faster than reindeer," said Thomas.



Snow covered the countryside. Thomas's driver had to put on his snow plough.

The driver looked at his watch. "I wonder when the sack of toys will arrive from the toy factory. We don't want to be late."

It was snowing heavily when the Fat Controller came striding along. He was dressed in a big, white beard, a red coat and black boots, but he still kept his top hat on, to keep his head warm.

"Upon my soul. Disaster!" he cried. "The lorry carrying the sack of toys skidded on the slippery road. The sack fell out of the back of the lorry, and no one can find it. We'll have to go to the hospital without any toys for the children."

Thomas puffed along the branch line, his snow plough churning through the heavy fall of snow on the line. Everyone felt too sad to sing any Christmas songs.

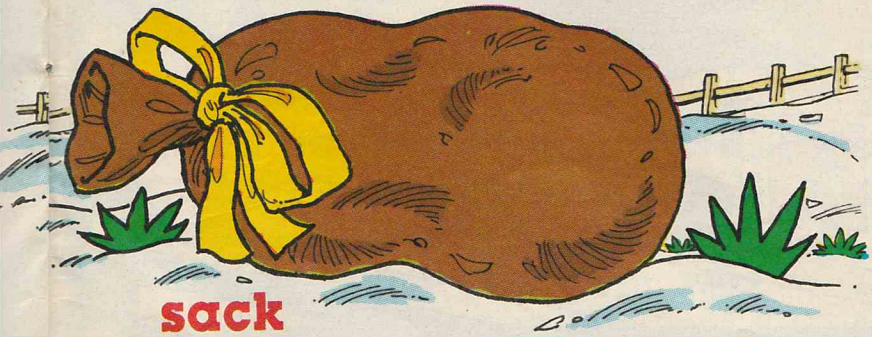
Up ahead, Thomas saw something blocking the line.

"Stop, stop," he called.

His driver pulled on his brakes, and Thomas slowed and stopped. The driver climbed out of the cab. There on the line was something which looked like a snowman.

But when the driver knocked away the snow, he gave a happy cry. "It's the **sack** of toys. It must have rolled down here when it fell off the lorry, and the heavy snow covered it up."

"Peep! Peep!" said Thomas. "Well, goodness, gracious me!" said the Fat Controller.



sack

Thomas arrived at the hospital. The Fat Controller called "Ho, ho, ho," and "Merry Christmas!" as he climbed out of the coach and went into the hospital.

When the children had unwrapped their presents, they looked out of the windows to where Thomas was resting at the station.

"Merry Christmas, Thomas," they shouted.

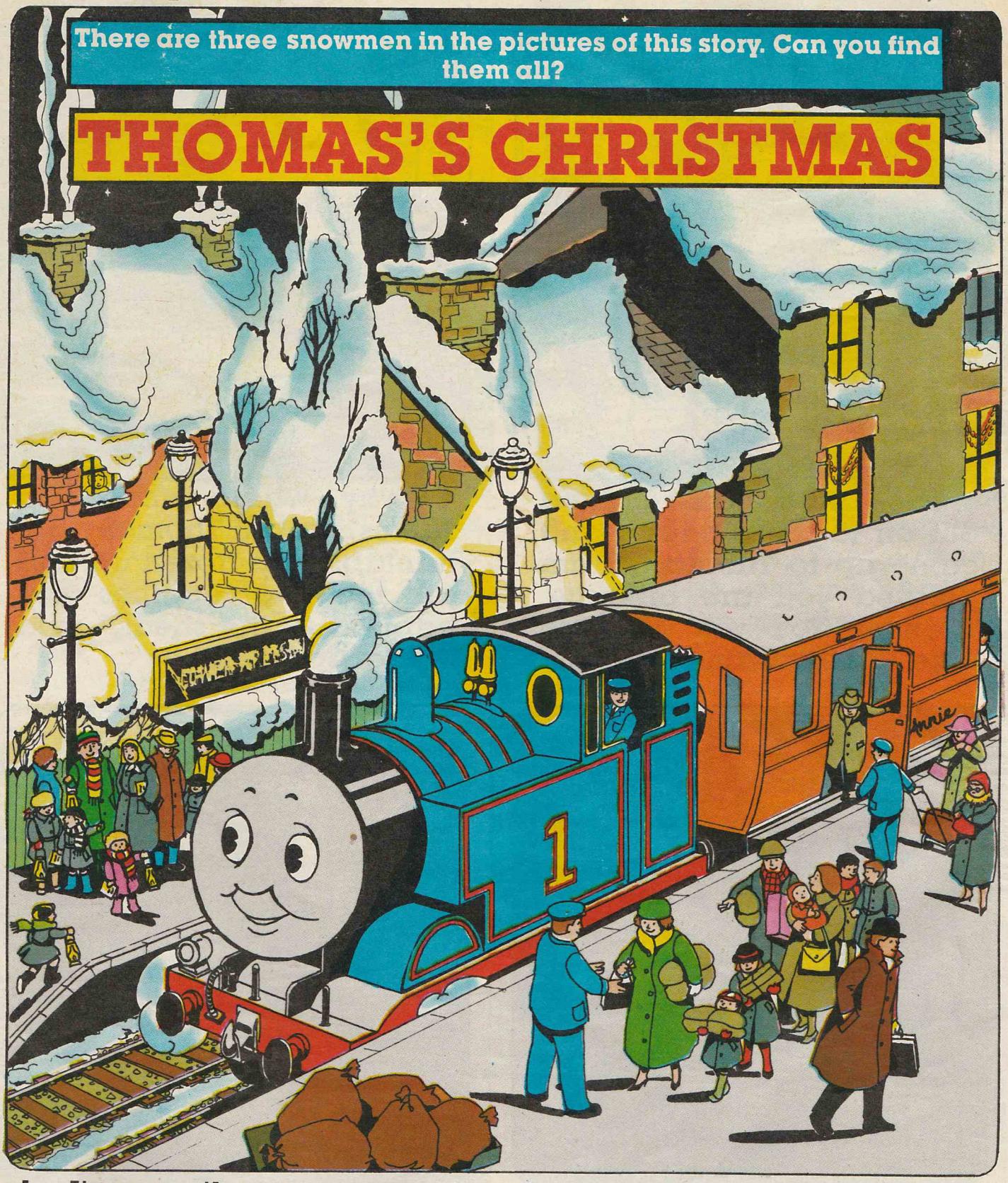
"Merry Christmas," Thomas whistled back. "Merry Christmas, everyone! Peep, peep!"

THE END

JOIN THE DOTS!

Why is the Fat Controller looking *quite* so delighted? Join the dots to find out – and then finish colouring the picture!

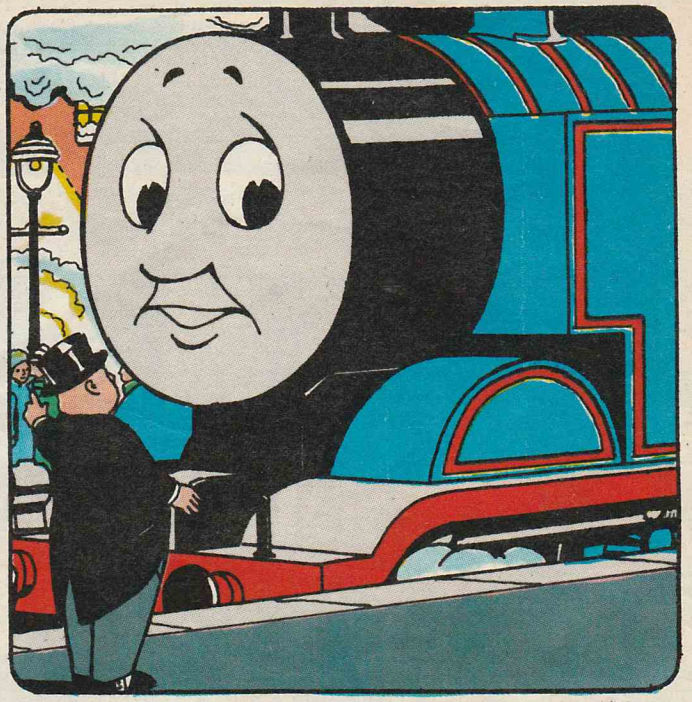
The story continues!



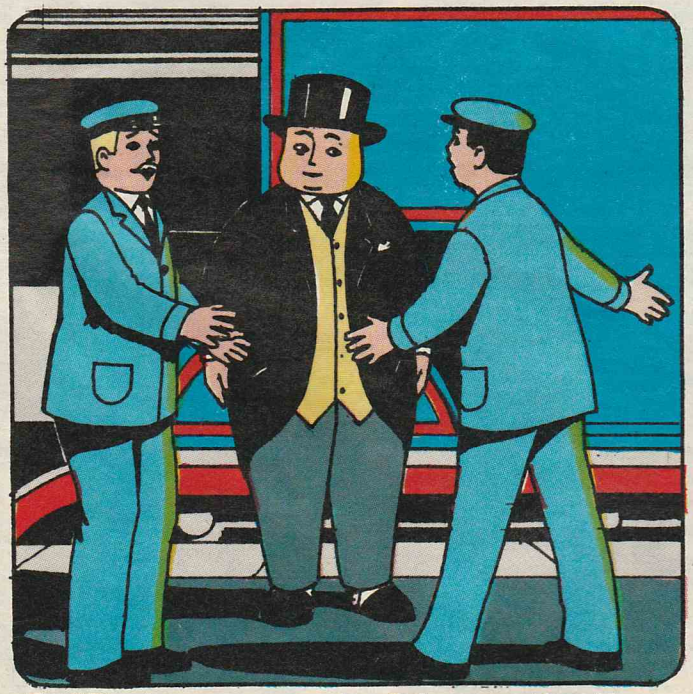
1. It was the evening of Christmas Eve. Thomas was pulling his last train into the station and was surprised to see the other platform was crowded with people.

2. Among them were carol singers and people for the Service at the church. "Why are you still here?" asked Thomas. "Hasn't James arrived with his train?"

3. The Fat Controller hurried out on to the platform and came up to Thomas. "I am pleased you are on time, Thomas. You will have to take James's train," he said.

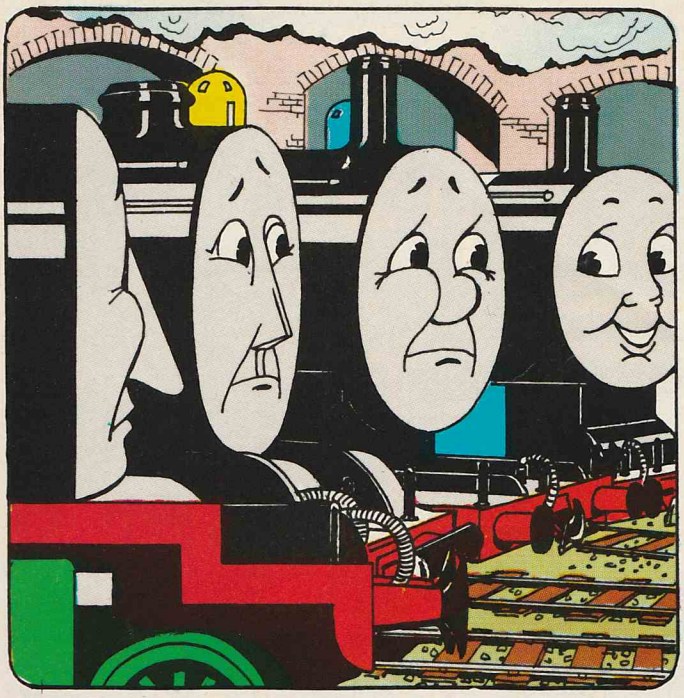


4. "Why? What's wrong with James?" asked Thomas. "The turntable has frozen up and all the big engines are trapped in the sheds," said the Fat Controller.



5. "But we wanted to go to the Carol Service," said Thomas's fireman. "If Thomas does not take the singers, there will not be a Carol Service," said the Fat Controller.

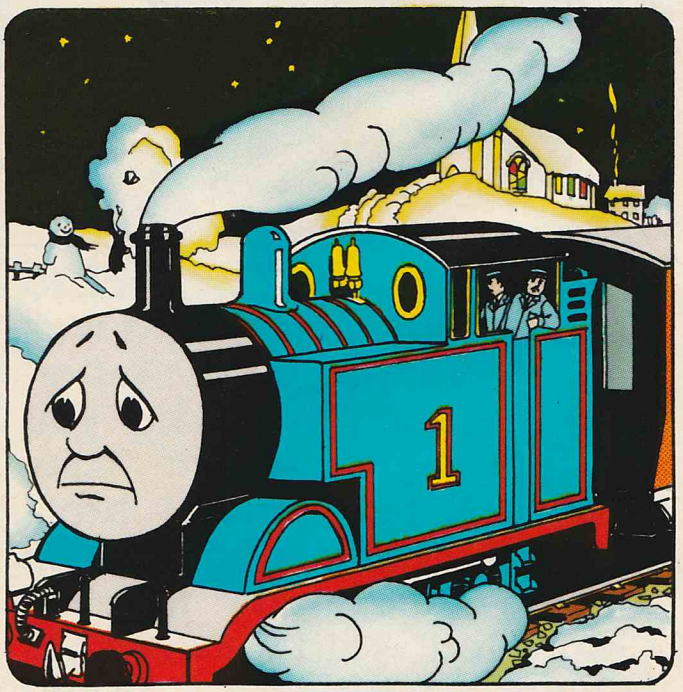
6. Thomas went to get extra coaches and passed the other engines in their shed. "I may not be able to whistle but at least I can pull a train," thought Thomas to himself.



7. Gordon, Henry and James looked sorry for themselves as they waited in the cold shed. But Edward laughed and said "Well done Thomas! You are a Really Useful Engine!"

8. Thomas took extra coaches to the platform. The passengers got on and he puffed away. At the station near the church all the singers and the passengers got off.

9. The church was all lit up and they could already hear music coming from it. "It seems we will just have to wait until next year," said the fireman to the driver.



10. As they set off Thomas said, "It does not look as if we will have a very happy Christmas: the big engines stuck in their shed, no carols for you and no whistle for me."

11. When Thomas got back to the main station Edward was on the other platform. "Hello!" said Thomas, "How did you get out of your shed?" "They fixed the turntable. I have been pulling a special train for the vicar and the Fat Controller!" said Edward. "A special train?" asked Thomas. "Yes," said the vicar, walking up.

12. "Everyone told me how you pulled the train and why your driver and fireman missed the carols. So we have brought the carols **here**!" The singers gathered around Thomas. After the first carol the Fat Controller came forward with a big parcel. "And **this** is your Christmas present, Thomas," he said. In the parcel was a shiny, new whistle. "Happy whistling and a Merry Christmas to you all!"

Don't miss our next issue!